

Message Text

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66

ACTION AF-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-10 /016 W
----- 103661

R 271600Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7412

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OUAGADOUGOU 2619

FOR AF/EX BRADFORD FROM AMBASSADOR

ABIDJAN FOR REDSO

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, ASEC

SUBJECT: TERRORISM

1. WHILE WE ARE ALL TOO AWARE THAT TROUBLE CAN STRIKE ANYWHERE AT ANY TIME, AND WHILE WE CAN ALWAYS USE ADDITIONAL SOFTBALL TALENT, DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE THAT ADDITIONAL SECURITY PROVIDED TO US IN OUAGADOUGOU BY MARINES WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO OUTWEIGHT DISADVANTAGES OF THEIR PRESENCE.

2. ON THE ONE HAND, POSSIBILITY OF VIOLENCE OR TERRORIST ACTION IN OUAGADOUGOU IS LOW ON SCALE OF WORLDWIDE PROBABILITIES. ON THE OTHER, DISADVANTAGES ARE SEVERAL. THEY INCLUDE FOLLOWING:

A. DIFFICULTIES MAINTAINING MORALE AND GOOD BEHAVIOR OF UNMARRIED NON-FRENCH-SPEAKING AMERICANS WITH LITTLE TO DO IN THEIR SPARE TIME.

B. SPECTACULAR IMAGE MARINES WOULD PRESENT IN SLEEPY TOWN WITH ONLY EIGHT EMBASSIES, NONE OF THEM GUARDED EXCEPT IN CERTAIN CASES UNOBTRUSIVELY BY CIVILIAN PERSONNEL (SOVIET AND PRESUMABLY PRC).

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3. FUTHERMORE, WE QUESTION VALIDITY FOR OUAGADOUGOU

OF PREMISE THAT PRESENCE OF MARINES AT CHANCERY WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCE OVERALL SECURITY OF US PERSONNEL AGAINST TERRORIST ACTION. OUR LIFESTYLE NECESSARILY SO OPEN HERE THAT ANY INTENDED ACTION OF THIS SORT AGAINST US WILL TAKE PLACE AT AIRPORT, HOMES, TENNIS COURT, SWIMMING POOL, OR ELSEWHERE, RATHER THAN AT GUARDED CHANCERY.

4. PLEASE LET US KNOW IN EVENT YOU WISH FURTHER ARGUMENT IN SUPPORT OUR POSITION. EASUM

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